

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SFC OLLEN HUNT

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to SFC retired Ollen Hunt for his exceptional dedication to duty and service to the U.S. Army and to the United States of America.

A native of McMoresville, TN, Sergeant Hunt was drafted into the U.S. Army in November of 1942. Sergeant Hunt was a part of the 92nd Infantry Division, which was also known as "The Buffalo Division." Sergeant Hunt and his unit boarded troop ships at Camp Henry, VA, and survived the sea journey to their destination in Italy. The 92nd fought with distinction and divisiveness, and contributed to the eventual defeat of the Axis Powers.

After returning from his deployment, Sergeant Hunt returned home for a short time before returning to assignments throughout Europe. He was responsible for the food and logistics operations at various military installations. He continued his military service until retiring as a Sergeant First Class in 1963. A year after retirement, Sergeant Hunt accepted a position as a flight kitchen chef in Anchorage, AK. Sergeant Hunt and his wife Hanna owned many small businesses, including the Hof Brau and Sandwich Deck. He also served on several downtown merchant and municipal committees and councils, receiving numerous awards for his contributions to the Anchorage community. After his "second retirement", Sergeant Hunt worked with the Veterans Administration's Oral History project writers to create an autobiography of his life. His work formed what would later become his book *Buffalo Soldier: What I Did for My Country, What My Country Did for Me*.

Sergeant Hunt's leadership throughout his career has positively influenced his peers and superiors, soldiers, and civilians alike. As a hardworking and friendly man, he will be greatly missed by his family and those fortunate enough to have known him.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending SFC Ollen Hunt for his service to his country in the United States Army. We wish his wife, Hannelore, and their two children, Katherine and Ollen, all the best as they celebrate the life of this great man.●

REMEMBERING CLAUS-M. NASKE

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President. Dr. Claus-M. Naske, a giant in the field of history in Alaska, passed away on March 5, 2014. I would like to honor him and his accomplishments as an educator, historian and family man.

Claus emigrated to Alaska in 1954 and moved to Fairbanks in 1957 to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks, graduating with double majors in political science and history. He obtained his doctorate from Washington State University and joined the Uni-

versity of Alaska Fairbanks faculty in 1969, starting his long and illustrious career as a teacher, mentor, researcher, author and administrator.

Claus was a professor of history at the University of Alaska Fairbanks until 2001. He not only taught, researched and wrote, he was the director of the University of Alaska Press until 2004. Managing the university's press office added to Dr. Naske's workload, but it was evidence of his love for scholarly work.

Claus authored and co-authored over a dozen books, including ones on two prominent political Alaskan political figures, Bob Bartlett and Ernest Gruening and several on Alaska's history. His book *Alaska: A History*, in its third edition, is considered the pre-eminent record of our great State. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Claus for his dedication and persistence as a historian, one who will long be remembered.

Claus received many well-deserved awards throughout his life, including the 2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award, the 2001 Usibelli Award for Research, the 1997 Alumni Award for Professional Excellence, and the 1995 Award of Merit by the Western History Association—to name a few.

Claus married Dinah in 1960 and had two children: Natalia-Michelle Nangeak and Nathaniel-Michael Noah. He and his wife have been generous to UAF, establishing a history scholarship and making regular donations to the campus public radio station.

Claus-M. Naske will go down in history with a sterling reputation as a scholar, teacher and father.●

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL B. OLDEN

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to advise the Senate of the accomplishments of a fellow Mississippian, Mr. Samuel B. Olden of Yazoo City, on the occasion of his 95th birthday.

Mr. Olden is from Yazoo City, the "Gateway to the Mississippi Delta," where he was born in 1919, to a family of Mississippi planters. Throughout his youth, he read widely in the B.S. Ricks Memorial Library—the oldest privately-funded public library in the State—which greatly contributed to his personal development and admission into the University of Mississippi in Oxford. There, he received a B.A. and M.A., reportedly conversed with Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner, and was ultimately recruited to Washington, DC, to serve at the Department of State. Prior to American involvement in World War II, Mr. Olden was sent abroad as the Vice Consul at our embassy in Quito, Ecuador, from 1941 to 1943. Upon his return, Mr. Olden enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving from 1943 to 1946 at posts ranging from Shanghai, China, to Paris, France.

After the war Mr. Olden transited the North Atlantic on a Liberty ship. A fellow naval officer noted Mr. Olden's fortitude during this stormy passage. While tending to his ailing father back

in Mississippi, he received a letter from Washington asking him to consider defending our Nation's freedom, in a third essential way. Mr. Olden returned to the District of Columbia, where he was invited to join the newly formed Central Intelligence Group. Commencing in 1947, Mr. Olden spent 2 years in the group's Washington office, followed by 3 years in Vienna, Austria, where he defended freedom and democracy against Communist aggression.

Following a decade in public service, Mr. Olden entered the private sector, where he employed his experience abroad for a predecessor of Exxon Mobil. From 1952-1957, he was posted in East and West Nigeria, British and French Cameroon, the Congo, Chad, and Gabon. He joined Mobil's government relations department in 1957 and returned to New York. There, he attained observer status at the United Nations and strode the halls with Adlai Stevenson and Eleanor Roosevelt. Later, he went abroad once more to serve as general manager of Mobil's affiliates in Tunisia, Algeria, Peru, and Spain.

By 1974, Mr. Olden was fluent in English, French, German, and Spanish. He had connections around the world. And where did he go? He chose to retire to the finest place he had ever lived: Yazoo City. There, he owned and operated a cattle ranch for 15 years, while continuing to pursue his passion for the study of history. He was twice a board member and was elected president of the Mississippi Historical Society, served 15 years on the State committee for the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, and founded the Yazoo Historical Society's remarkable museum—housed in the same Triangle Center building where he had attended elementary school. Even in his nineties, he established and helped to fund the Yazoo Memorial Literary Walkway, which stretches between the Triangle Center and the B.S. Ricks Library. The walkway memorializes more than 100 Yazooan authors to include former House Minority Leader and Senator John Sharp Williams, literary critic and editor Henry Herschel Brickell, Gov. Haley Reeves Barbour, beloved writers Willie Morris, Teresa Nicholas, and Ruth Williams, and educator Henry Mitchell Brickell. His large collection of pre-Columbian ceramics is now on display in the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson.

This remarkable man has served his Nation as a diplomat, military officer, and emissary, during wars hot and cold. He served the world in the energy industry as a global businessman of distinction. He returned to his hometown and has continued to serve his State, his university, and his community as a historian, educator and philanthropist even into the 10th decade of his life. His friends across the Nation and around the world celebrate with him today.●

TRIBUTE TO PETE BALLARD

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Pete Ballard, a dear friend and a truly remarkable West Virginian who is known throughout the Mountain State and far past our borders for his many talents, especially for his global recognition of his still life paintings and historic period doll creations.

A native of Welch, located in the southern-most part of our State in McDowell County, Pete currently resides in Peterstown, an idyllic small town in the rolling emerald hills of Monroe County. Although Pete's career in the arts has taken him across the country and around the world, including Saudi Arabia, China and Vietnam, there has never been a doubt that Pete's roots are truly imbedded in West Virginia.

After receiving a degree in education from Concord University, Pete began teaching. However, it wasn't long before Pete's propensities steered him far beyond just a career in education, leading him to partake in many more professional ventures.

Today, as an award-winning educator, celebrated artist, renowned painter, nationally acclaimed costume designer, curator, historian, and famous doll creator, Pete's passion for the arts and creativity know no bounds.

Many of Pete's paintings are now displayed in museums and art galleries across the country. Today, three of Pete's exceptional paintings are displayed among the most celebrated collection of American Still Life paintings at The Butler Institute, which is America's first museum to collect American art. His work will forever be a part of such an extraordinary collection of America's best artwork.

In addition to his distinguished paintings, Pete has most recently been recognized across the country for his unique creation of 19th century fashion dolls. Pete creates each doll based on meticulously researched and authentic period fashion. Made from head to toe in papier-mâché, the dolls' figures range from approximately 3 to 5 feet tall and wear costumes that are designed in period clothing.

Due to Pete's painstaking attention to detail along with his fashion expertise, hard work and brilliant vision, he is no stranger to receiving prestigious awards. As Governor, I was honored to name Pete as a Distinguished West Virginian. He has also received the Grand Groundhog Watcher Award. Both of these awards were created to honor those who have contributed significantly to West Virginia and those who have brought positive attention to our great State. He was also named Concord University's Golden Alumnus, is among the Outstanding Educators in America, and has received the Order of the Arts and Historical Letters from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. Pete's paintings and dolls have also been displayed in galas and exhibitions around West Virginia and across the country.

Despite his astounding success, Pete has never collected a dime for his work. After spending 12 hours a day, 7 days a week working on each piece of art, he merely donates every painting and every doll he doesn't hold for keepsake to charity or to art galleries.

It has been an honor and privilege to know such a gifted West Virginian. Pete Ballard's imprint will always be marked by his brilliant creations and his countless contributions to the State of West Virginia. I join all West Virginians in celebrating his vast achievements, which will live on in our history books, atop the same shelves as some of the most distinguished artwork of our time and mounted on the walls of esteemed museums.

After all these years, I continue to look forward to viewing many more paintings and doll creations because at the age of 83, Pete continues to work on his art every day.●

TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS RHODES

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to thank Phyllis Rhodes for her outstanding service to the Municipality of Anchorage, the Federal court system, and Identity, Inc. on the occasion of her retirement.

Born in Arizona and raised in Texas, Phyllis and her former husband moved to Alaska in 1967 with their young daughter Anne, making their home in Anchorage. A second daughter, Emily, made her appearance after the family relocated to Alaska. Since her arrival in Alaska Phyllis' contributions to the cause of equality for the LGBTQ community, and all Alaskans, has become legendary.

Phyllis started out as the volunteer coordinator for Identity, Inc. but with her usual passion and commitment, she started picking up speed, eventually becoming the unpaid executive director of the organization. Over the course of her 10 years as executive director of Identity, Inc. Phyllis has taken the organization from obscurity to high visibility in Anchorage and across Alaska. During Phyllis' tenure, Identity, Inc. expanded its programs and began outreach to new audiences. The creation of an advocacy team has led to open dialogues with Alaska businesses, churches, educational institutions and other organizations. Within the LGBTQ community, Phyllis is the recognized heart and soul of Identity, Inc.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to Phyllis for her many years of advocating for equality. I wish the absolute best to her, her wife Pam, and her daughters Anne and Emily, as they begin this next stage in their lives.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL OLA LEE MIZE

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the passing of a great Alabamian, COL Ola Lee Mize, on March 12, 2014. Colonel Mize was a native of Marshall

County and an American hero. He embodied the ideals of service and courage that make our State proud.

Colonel Mize was born on August 28, 1931, in Marshall County, and dropped out of high school after ninth grade to provide for his family. He was rejected for enlistment by the Army numerous times because he was blind in one eye and they claimed he was too small. Eventually he was accepted and joined the 82nd Airborne Division.

He is perhaps best remembered by his defense of Outpost Harry when it was attacked during the Korean war. Colonel Mize bravely protected injured comrades and held opposition forces at bay, valiantly risking his life for others. For this intrepid gallantry, Colonel Mize earned a Medal of Honor, which remains on display in the Guntersville Museum.

Colonel Mize went on to join the Special Forces and served 3½ tours in Vietnam with the Green Berets and then served as an Active-Duty advisor to National Guard Special Forces units. Throughout the course of his military career, he was awarded the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and, of course, the Medal of Honor. Colonel Mize continued to be active in veterans' events and where he was known and honored by all. He retired in 1981 after 31 years of service.

Mary and I mourn his passing and send our condolences to his wife Betty, his daughter Teresa Peterson, and his six brothers and sisters. Alabama has lost a true hero and his legend will grow. I was honored to get to know him. He was a remarkable man whose courage on the battlefield extended to a determination to do the right thing in all aspects of life.●

REMEMBERING JOHN RICHARD MILLER, JR.

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the passing of a great Alabamian, John Richard Miller, Jr., who died on January 26, 1024. Mr. Miller was a native and longtime resident of Brewton, AL.

After graduating from Culver Military Academy in Culver, IN, he attended the University of Alabama. Mr. Miller served as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps, 8th Air Force, in the European Theatre of Operation during World War II, receiving the Air Medal, E.T.O. Medal, and a Presidential Citation, and was discharged with the rank of major.

After his military service, he returned to Brewton where, like his father and grandfather, was employed by T.R. Miller Mill Company where he held various positions including chairman of the board from 1986 to 2009, and chairman emeritus until his death. He also served on many other boards and was a founding member of the Bank of Mobile. He was the third generation patriarch of this family and its businesses. He was also very committed to